

Chair Todd Apo and Members of the City Council:

RE: Bill 15 (2009), CD1-Executive Operating Budget Wednesday, April 22, 2009

I am Karen Iwamoto, President of the Palolo Community Council. The Palolo Community Council respectfully requests your reconsideration of eliminating the summer fun lunch program by providing brunch instead. We understand the need to make budgetary cuts in almost every City function; however, we implore you to consider the health of these summer fun youth. In Palolo, the participants in the City's Summer Fun program are largely from the Palolo Homes vicinity and are those who are most at risk of getting into trouble if they are not fully occupied in a program that provides supervised activity and provides healthy meals. For the most part, these participants' families can hardly afford the Summer Fun registration fee, especially if there are several members from one family enrolled in the Summer Fun Program.

I personally and the Palolo Community Council as an organization that is concerned about the well-being of the community would like to see the Summer Fun lunch program be reinstated in the budget for the Summer Fun program throughout the island. With our economy in such bad shape, the impact falls on those least able to fend for themselves—these are the participants in the Palolo area. I am sure there are other communities that find themselves in the same situation. I believe that the meals the children get in the Summer Fun program are more nutritious than the ones they receive at home. It is going to be more difficult for families to stretch their food budgets to provide the meals that were provided through the Summer Fun program.

Lastly, these children who attend the Summer Fun program are very active and very hungry. To limit them to a brunch—even though it's cheaper would really deprive them of one meal. I ask for your reconsideration of trimming the budget by eliminating the Summer Fun lunch program.

Sincerely,
Karen Iwamoto
3443 Hardesty St.
Honolulu, HI 96816

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